

CLAIMS:

1. An oval-spherical organic polymer particle having a single continuous curved surface, which particle is  
5 characterized by:  
    bearing an ionic functional group, and  
    having an aspect ratio  $P_1$ , calculated by the formula  $P_1 = L_1/D_1$ , wherein  $L_1$  is the major axis and  $D_1$  is the minor axis of a projected two-dimensional image obtained by shining  
10 light onto the particle from a direction orthogonal to the long axis of the particle, that satisfies the relationship  $P_1 \geq 1.8$ .
2. The oval-spherical organic polymer particle of claim 1  
15 which is characterized in that the major axis  $L_1$  is from 0.001 to 10,000  $\mu\text{m}$ .
3. The oval-spherical organic polymer particle of claim 1 or 2 which is characterized in that the ionic functional  
20 group is an anionic functional group.
4. The oval-spherical organic polymer particle of claim 1 or 2 which is characterized in that the ionic functional  
25 group is a salt having a counterion.
5. The oval-spherical organic polymer particle of claim 3 which is characterized in that the anionic functional group has a metal cation as a counterion.
- 30 6. A method of producing the oval-spherical organic polymer particle of claim 1 or 2, the method being characterized by solution polymerizing a first organic monomer having an ionic functional group and a polymerizable group with a second organic monomer which is polymerizable  
35 with the first organic monomer.

7. The oval-spherical organic polymer particle producing method of claim 6 which is characterized by using a solution having a content of the first and second organic monomers combined of 1 to 80 wt%.

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8. The oval-spherical organic polymer particle producing method of claim 6 or 7 which is characterized by carrying out dispersion polymerization in a solution that also contains a dispersant.